(b) The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either *suo motu* or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules.

Foreign media agencies

†923.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the major media agencies are receiving foreign assistance, are owned controlled and operated from abroad with their head quarters being located abroad; and

(b) the details of the print and the electronic media in the above said categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) In the print media sector, the operation of foreign news agencies in India is governed by the Cabinet Decision of 1956, according to which communication facilities can be granted only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency, owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news, in reasonable volume, to the foreign news agencies with whom they have a working arrangement. The Government have no control in managing day-to-day affairs of news agencies, as these are companies registered under the Companies Act. 1956 and operate in the private sector.

As regards Broadcasting Sector, no media agency with foreign assistance is registered. As per the down-linking guidelines only those TV channels can be carried in the cable service, which are registered with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, they are not Media Agencies.

Legislation for visual media

924. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a legislation for monitoring of the visual media;

(b) whether there is also any proposal to establish independent regulatory mechanism for monitoring of the visual media; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

examining the draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with various stakeholders including the State Governments. Full text of the draft Bill is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The draft Bill proposes to set up an independent Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) for broadcasting services. Regulation and monitoring of content is one of the major functions required to be performed by the proposed Regulator. The proposed regulator will be empowered to issue regulations regarding the places, types and quantity of equipment to be provided by the service providers free of cost, for monitoring of content and the manner in which such monitoring may be carried out by the licensing authorities or authorized officers under the Bill.

Air-time access by religious organization

925. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that certain private channels are violating Government policy of reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any recommendations from TRAI for banning the entry of religious organizations into broadcasting activities; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Government has no specific policy for reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations for private TV channels. The private FM Radio and TV channels are free to determine their programming provided it is in compliance of the relevant programme and advertisement codes.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations made on 12.11.2008 has not favoured the entry of religious bodies into broadcasting activities and own their broadcasting stations and teleports.

(d) As per Government policy, a company controlled by or associated with a religious body is disqualified from seeking FM Radio permissions.

Backlog of court cases

926. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has run up a backlog of more than 50,000 cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;